

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-8724



October 29, 1982

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 82-111

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL (SB) 14 CHANGES AFFECTING THE
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) PROGRAM

SB 14 went into effect October 1, 1982. Advance copies of the regulations implementing the bill have been issued. One provision of SB 14 impacts the IHSS program by extending the needs assessment period from six to twelve months. Following are descriptions of the changes resulting from the law and suggestions for implementation.

- . Eligibility shall be determined and needs assessed by county social services staff at the time of application, at subsequent 12-month intervals and when required based on information received about changes in the individual's situation or when requested by the recipient.
- . Once services have been authorized, the authorization shall continue until there is a change in eligibility or assessed level of need. A Notice of Action is no longer required for cases in which there is no change from the last assessment.
- . County social services staff shall have a face-to-face contact with the recipient at least every 12 months and shall determine that he/she would not be able to remain safely in his/her own home without IHSS.
- . Reassessments shall be made prior to the end of the 12th calendar month from the last assessment. In the event a reassessment is completed before the 12th calendar month, the month for the next assessment shall be adjusted to the 12-month requirement.
- . For purposes of the payrolling system, EDS-F is currently reprogramming to accept the following change: Authorization end dates will no longer be required except in instances where a recipient's status is changed to either a leave (L) or terminated (T) status. End dates in eligibility segments will not preclude advance payments or result in rejection of timesheets unless a recipient's status is L or T. Counties can continue to enter authorization end dates for recipients in an eligible (E) status to receive desired management information. At this time no date has been confirmed for the program change. Counties are therefore advised to advance the end date in all E status cases prior to expiration until further notice.

- . Where clients have been previously notified of an ending date to an existing authorization period, they must be renotified (prior to the ending date) that the ending date has been eliminated. The vehicle for that renotice shall be a state-approved Notice of Action.

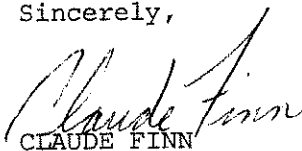
In no way does the annual assessment provided for in SB 14 lessen the responsibility to base eligibility and assessment time frames upon individual need.

We suggest that you devise a method to stagger your assessments so they will come due somewhat equally throughout the year. You may wish to consider the following alternatives:

- . Continue to do assessments at the end of existing 6-month periods in one-half of your existing cases, for the next 6 months, until assessments are equally staggered.
- . Severely impaired, unstable, and other critical cases may need to be assigned more frequent assessments.
- . Assign assessment time frames to geographical areas, e.g., clients living in snowbound areas are assessed in summer months.
- . Social workers with new cases assigned to them may wish to conduct the scheduled assessments of those cases in order to familiarize themselves with clients.
- . Base assessment time frames upon delivery mode. As an example, County Homemaker cases might get yearly assessments due to the frequent communication between social workers and county providers, whereas individual provider cases might be reassessed sooner.

Please do not hesitate to call your Adult Services Program Operations consultant for technical assistance at (916) 445-8724.

Sincerely,



CLAUDE FINN

Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division